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COUPS IN SOUTH ASIA: AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, PAKISTAN, 1954-83

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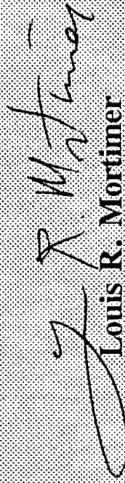
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PREFACE

This chronology was prepared as a reference work for analysts following political events and military participation in politics in the South Asian countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. It documents the various coup d'etats which have taken place in these three countries between 1954 and 1983. Dates of the coups, a brief description of the event, a characterization of whether the coup was violent or nonviolent, the name and title of the head of government and the type of government that emerged from the coup, and a list of key military participants are provided in a chronological format for each country. The data were derived from open source South Asian media.

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AFGHANISTAN

Date	Description of Event	N/V ¹	New Head of Govt/Type of Govt	Comment on Key Military Figures
17 Jul 73	Prime Minister Lt Gen Sardar Mohammad Daud abolishes the monarchy while King Zaher Shah is in Italy.	N	Lt Gen Daud imposes Martial Law and becomes President.	General approval in military and wealthy circles.
27 Apr- 30 Apr 78	A military junta seizes power after fierce fighting in which President Daud and numerous others are killed.	V	Civilian Nur Mohammad Taraki becomes head of a "Revolutionary Council."	Lt Col Abdul Khadir, Soviet-trained fighter pilot and deputy commander of the Air Force. Col Aslam Watanjar, Kabul tank regiment commander.
27 Mar 79	Deputy Premier Hafizullah Amin takes control of Revolutionary Council; Taraki retains presidency and defense portfolio.	N		Amin received a Master of Education degree from Columbia University in New York City.
16 Sep 79	Unidentified individuals kill President Taraki; Amin retains control of Revolutionary Council.	V	Amin becomes President of Afghanistan.	
27 Dec 79	Soviet troops enter Afghanistan to assist in overthrow and assassination of Hafizullah Amin.	V	Babrak Karmal becomes President.	

¹N/V (Nonviolent/Violent) refers to violence against the outgoing members of government. Other parties may have been injured or killed at the same time, or as part of the change of government.

BANGLADESH

Date	Description of Event	N/V ¹	New Head of Govt/Type of Govt	Comment on Key Military Figures
28 Dec 74- 25 Jan 75	Sheikh <u>Mujibur Rahman</u> , a civilian official, forces the President to declare a state of emergency. The national parliament votes to suspend the constitution and acclaim Mujib as President.	N	Mujib becomes civilian President with authority over military and paramilitary forces.	unknown
15 Aug 75	Commerce Minister <u>Khandakar Mushtaq Ahmed</u> fronts a putsch in which <u>Mujib</u> and other officials, as well as their immediate families, are murdered in their homes.	V	Mushtaq becomes Martial Law Administrator and the state is put under martial law.	Maj <u>Abdul Dalim</u> Maj <u>Nur</u> Maj <u>Farooq Rahman</u> of the Bengal Lancers (1st armored Div., which went to Mujib's home) Maj <u>Badul Rashid</u> (Artillery) Maj <u>Abdul Hafiz</u> Maj <u>Huda</u> Possibly others. Higher ranking military figures were brought in after the fact, and the Cabinet merely reshuffled.

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BANGLADESH (Continued)

Date	Description of Event	N/V	New Head of Govt/Type of Govt	Comment on Key Military Figures
This marks the beginning of an era of total factionalization of the Bangladesh military, highlighted by numerous coup and countercoup attempts.				
3 Nov- 7 Nov 75	This failed coup attempt, staged by a radical pro-Indian officer, aims to install the officer in power and free the jailed Army COS, <u>Ziaur Rahman</u> . Zia (or Ziaur), immensely popular with the troops, is freed within a week. The coup-maker, however, fails to gain wide support and is killed under mysterious circumstances.			
29 Nov 75	Gen <u>Ziaur Rahman</u> , Army COS, arrests President <u>Mushtaq</u> and 10 other leaders as well as more than 100 mid-level political workers.	N	Zia declares himself Chief Martial Law Administrator, suspends the constitution, postpones elections, and reinstates Martial Law in the areas where it had been lifted.	Abu <u>Taher</u> Col M. <u>Ziauddin</u> Brig <u>Khalid Moshariff</u> Col <u>Amzad</u> of Comilla Brigade Possibly others, particularly those associated with earlier failed coup attempts.
May 78	President Zia completes the restoration of democracy by resigning his military office and winning election as civilian president.			

BANGLADESH (Continued)

Date	Description of Event	N/V	New Head of Govt/Type of Govt	Comment on Key Military Figures
31 May 81	Maj Gen Mohammad Abdul <u>Manzur</u> assassinates President Zia while attempting a coup. The military fails to support Manzur, who is subsequently killed.	V	Constitutional Vice President <u>Abdus Sattar</u> becomes acting president and declares a state of emergency pending elections. The constitution is not suspended.	The group that assassinated President Zia was led by Lt Col Mehbur Rahman and Lt Col Matuer Rahman. Thirty-one officers, mostly from the Chittagong garrison, were court-martialed for involvement in the plot.
24 Mar 82	The Armed Forces suspend the constitution and remove the President from office.	N	Lt Gen Hussain Mohammad <u>Ershad</u> , COAS, becomes Chief Martial Law Administrator. Martial Law is imposed nationwide.	The New Advisory Council (most were probably associated with the coup): Air Vice-Marshal Sultan <u>Mahmud</u> Naval Chief VADM M.A. <u>Khan</u> (Ret) Air Vice-Marshal <u>A.G. Mahmud</u> (Ret) Maj Gen M. Shamsul <u>Huq</u> (Ret) Air Vice-Marshal <u>Islam</u> Maj Gen Mannam <u>Siddiky</u> Possibly others. Gen Ershad was educated at Dacca University, Kohat Military College, and Pakistan Staff College at Quetta. This is not a confirmed complete list of his military educational experiences.

PAKISTAN

Date	Description of Event	N/V ¹	New Head of Govt/Type of Govt	Comment on Key Military Figures
7 Oct 58	Civilian President Iskander <u>Mirza</u> abrogates the constitution.	N	President Mirza remains in office; Martial Law is imposed.	Army CINC Gen <u>Ayub Khan</u> Possibly others.
27 Oct 58	Army CINC Gen Mohammad <u>Ayub Khan</u> seizes control of the government and exiles President Mirza.	N	Gen Ayub Khan remains Army CINC and becomes head of state.	
26 Mar- 31 Mar 69	Following a public announcement scheduling constitutional elections, Army CINC Gen Agha Mohammad <u>Yahya Khan</u> becomes President with the active assistance of out-going President Ayub Khan.	N	Gen Yahya Khan imposes Martial Law and serves as President, assisted by a committee of generals.	Lt Gen S.Q.M. Peerzada Lt Gen Abdul <u>Hamil Khan</u> (Army COS) Maj Gen Ghulam <u>Umar</u> Possibly others.
20 Dec 71	Following unconditional surrender of Pakistan's troops in East Pakistan, and the resultant formation of Bangladesh, massive public unrest leads Gen Yahya Khan to hand the presidency to civilian Zulfikar Ali <u>Bhutto</u> , head of the largest political party in West Pakistan.	N	Bhutto becomes head of state and oversees preparation of 1973 constitution.	

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PAKISTAN (Continued)

Date	Description of Event	N/V	New Head of Govt./Type of Govt	Key Military Figures	Comment on
7 Jul 77	Army CINC Mohammad Ziaul Haq ² arrests Prime Minister Bhutto and suspends 1973 Constitution.			Gen Mohammad Iqbal Khan educated at Quetta and Paris Gen Rahimuddin Khan (participation not confirmed) educated at Indian Military Academy; attended officers' training school, Ft. Benning, GA, 1958; attended Command & General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, KS, 1965. Gen Sarwar Khan, artillery school in the United Kingdom, 1950-51.	

²Ziaul Haq's name has been used variously: Zia-ul Haq, Zia-ul Haq, or Zia ul Haq. The usage in this chronology follows the English-language newspaper of Pakistan.